

TOWN COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
CHARLESTOWN, MARYLAND
January 24, 2016

The Town Meeting was called to order by President, Renee Capano at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Joseph Letts, Mary Carol Durange and Renee Capano. Mr. Wib Pumpaly, Town Administrator, was also present. Commissioner Andy Thompson was excused and Commissioner Bruce Hechmer was not in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jack Kronner

Approval of the Minutes of January 10, 2017 Commissioner Durange moved to approve, Commissioner Letts seconded. An addition was added by Commissioner Capano that she began the meeting by phone and then joined the meeting in person during the meeting. Approved 3-0.

Accounts Payable Review of January 24, 2017 – Accounts payable was presented for payment in the amount of \$7,898.54. Commissioner Letts moved to accept, Commissioner Durange seconded. Approved 3-0.

Proposed Charter Change Discussion/Ballot Question – Commissioner Capano is asking for two committees to be formed, one to work on the comprehensive plan and one for a charter review. Mr. Pumpaly was asked to recruit volunteers for two such committees.

Sustainable Communities Resolution – Ms. Janine Antoshak informed the Commissioners on the program of Sustainable Communities. This is a program of designation through the state of Maryland. This designation will open up grants to the town which we would qualify for if we have this designation. A committee has been formed and is well on the way to completing the application. We are the only town in Cecil County without this designation. Ms. Antoshak enumerated several grants that are appealing to our community that this program will open up to us to apply for. She also passed out examples of what other towns have been able to do with this designation. She then explained the proposed designation area which will be along Route 7 and into the original parts of Charlestown, as the grants most funded from this designation are for those homes that are older requiring major renovations. It is a five-year program. A round of applause was given to Ms. Antoshak for her hard work.

Town Administrator's Report

Old Business

Avalon Park – Brief Up-date Mr. Pumpaly has met with a couple of builders who have told him that they need stamped and certified plans because it will be a commercial building open to the public. He has also contacted several state and county agencies and started the ball rolling on what approvals we will need to finish this project. He included in the packets a proposal from Alpha Engineering at a cost of \$2700.00 to complete the plans if the desire is for a stick built structure. He needs from the board a decision on which plan they want to pursue. ICON has presented an estimate of around 45,000 for a building mimicking the plan of the Avalon Committee. He has also received another bid for a landscape building at a cost of 33,000 to 51,000 depending on details and then the cost of raising the structure above the flood plain would be added to the cost. Commissioner Letts is for the original drawing that they have had all along. Commissioners Capano and

Durange had gone to Goods for a bid and just received it, which was also included in the packet. Commissioner Letts asked Ms Clements, chair of the Avalon Committee, if she had seen the plans. She had not. After talking to other towns, Commissioners Capano and Durange stated that the 10 foot depth is not enough. Commissioner Durange had talked to various groups that might use the space who all also agreed that more space would be needed. All of these bids do not include ADA ramps or foundations to keep the building above the flood plain. In that area it cannot sit on the ground and will need to be raised 18 inches to be above the flood plain. This discussion garnered no decisions.

New Business

Mutual Aid Agreement/Resolution After contacting FEMA and MML it was learned that a Mutual Aid Agreement/Resolution was need and not an MOU as had been discussed earlier. This Mutual Aid Agreement is signed by the towns and then those on the list who have also signed the agreement would be the ones authorized to “offer aid” to each other in the case of a FEMA or MEMA declared emergency for that location. If a town on the list has an emergency we are not obligated to go, but if we do go, we can be reasonably certain that we will be reimbursed by FEMA. MML sent to Wib the wording for a resolution for this to happen and it and the Mutual Aid Agreement would need to be signed by the President. Mr. Pumpaly feels that we need to participate in this program. Once we sign it then we could possibly persuade some other closer towns to do so as well. There are currently 33 towns in the state of Maryland participating, none other in Cecil County. Commissioner Durange moved to accept the resolution and sign the Mutual Aid Agreement, seconded by Commissioner Capano. Approved 3-0.

Period of Public Comment

Jack Kronner – 275th Anniversary is this year. Is there anything planned? The Historic Group has been working on this for several months. No date has been set yet but will be similar to the Colonial Fairs of old. Mr. Kronner volunteers his help if needed.

Ursula Boudart – She feels that the Commissioners need to sit down and decide what structure is going to be built and get this done. It does not need to keep consuming time at each meeting.

Prosper Boudart – He still feels that the Boat Ramp needs to be put to rest one way or the other. Commissioner Durange is in favor of charging out of state boaters at the boat ramp. Commissioner Thompson has been working on a plan to do this. A committee did a comprehensive plan in 2008 and why don't we take that this and run with it.

There being no further business, Commissioner Letts moved to adjourn the regular meeting seconded by Commissioner Durange at 7:48 PM. Approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Myers, Town Clerk I